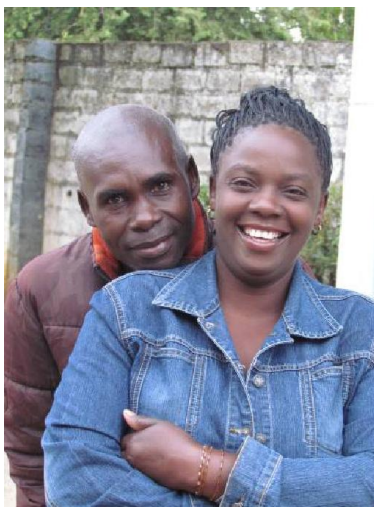




Christmas Newsletter 2014

Just after we sent out the last update (in the summer), a team of 13 people from the UK (mainly from the Cambridge area) spent 10 days in Lusaka, helping with AETZ projects as well as doing other work with local churches and schools. The highlight for the AETZ children was the weekend camp they organised for them and other children who wouldn't otherwise have the chance of a holiday. (They catered for 65 children in all!) The children were taken to a campsite just outside Lusaka, in beautiful surroundings, where there was opportunity to see wild animals (zebra, giraffe, impala, kudu, guinea fowl, monkey), play lots of games & sports, and do a wide variety of crafts. There was also a day-long camp reunion the following Saturday. The team also did a great job decorating the bedrooms in the Chimwemwe 2 Home and hosted a party for the children there on their last day in Lusaka.



After an exhaustive recruitment process (referred to in the previous letter), we are pleased to announce that AETZ appointed Geoffrey and Jackline Fungula as the new house-parents for the Chimwemwe 2 Children's Home. They and their 3 younger children moved into the home in August and have all settled in well. They are well known to AETZ as Geoffrey has been employed for some years as chief security guard, driver and mechanic, and Jackline has assisted with catering for functions and conferences at the Kingsgate Centre (where the AETZ offices and computer school are based). As well as bringing their experience of raising their own children, some of whom are already adults, they already had a good relationship with the Chimwemwe 2 children from living next door to them and had been getting involved in their lives. The children have decided to call them 'Auntie' and 'Uncle', perhaps having known them too long as 'Mr & Mrs Fungula' to think of calling them 'Mum & Dad' or the equivalent.



24th October was Independence Day in Zambia which is always a public holiday. This year we were celebrating 50 years of independence and so there

were extra special celebrations. AETZ were able to provide a treat for the Chimwemwe children, and Geoffrey and Jackline took them to Munda Wanga, a park just outside Lusaka that includes botanical gardens, a wildlife sanctuary, 2 swimming pools, and a playground. The photo shows the girls at the park wearing new skirts in Zambian national colours.

Over the summer AETZ also appointed another new member of staff, Mary Njovu, a qualified social worker. In some ways she replaces the late Chilombo Fungula. As an organisation running children's homes, AETZ is legally required to employ a social worker. Mary's main role is to oversee the care of the children in the Homes, to liaise with Social Welfare (the Government Social Services department that oversees children's homes) according to their requirements, and to oversee the programme of sponsoring promising children who live in the community through providing school fees. As these duties do not constitute a full-time role, she also acts as the Kingsgate site receptionist and helps manage the housekeeping requirements there.



Sonia has just finished teaching a first aid course on behalf of AETZ. Initially this was organised to meet local regulatory requirements for house-parents of children's homes, but other members of staff were invited to join in as well. It has been suggested that the course is made more widely available. While it is not vocational training as such, it fits in with the part of AETZ's mission statement about 'helping people so that they are in a position to help others'.

Enterprise College continues to run a whole range of computer courses (Word, Excel, etc). The PowerPoint Presentation course not only teaches students how to use the software, but unlike similar courses, also teaches presentation skills. Towards the end of that course students have to present a topic of their choice to the class and can also invite visitors such as their parents in to see them 'perform'. Feedback is given by their audience as well as the trainers. Students are encouraged to present topics that will be informative/edifying to the rest of the class. Topics have included Dating, Misuse of Drugs, and Issues related to Early Marriage.

Unfortunately there is also some sad news. The last update reported the recent retirement of Lamson & Maggie Musonda from their role as founding house-parents at the Chimwemwe 1 home. However, shortly after his retirement, just after they had relocated to their home in Kitwe on the Copperbelt, Lamson passed away following a short illness. Lamson played a key role in the early days of the Chimwemwe home using his experience as a father and head teacher in shaping the lives and characters of the Chimwemwe 1 children. We were able to organise and finance three of the Chimwemwe 1 children to get to the funeral, and Maggie was very touched and appreciative of this.

Finally, we need to announce a change in the governance of Africa Enterprise Trust UK. It has become increasingly difficult to find people who can take on the onerous role of a charity trustee in a small organisation such as AET. The current trustees of AETUK have therefore decided that its vision and purposes will best be served by finding a larger organisation with whom we can share the burden of trusteeship. We have consequently agreed with Global Horizons (www.global-horizons.org) that from early in 2015, AET will become part of Global Horizons within their humanitarian partnerships. This will save us much time on governance work (for example, we will not need to prepare a separate report and accounts for the charity commission) and will free us up to concentrate on fund-raising and advancing the work of AET. We will continue to use the Africa Enterprise Trust name, and there will be no change to our approach to uplifting the poor in Zambia. The existing trustees will continue to be fully involved and all funds given to AET will be designated entirely to AET. If you are a regular donor we will be writing to you separately (probably in the New Year), explaining how the changes will affect your standing order (if at all). If you have any questions about this change, please get in touch with us.

Thank you once again for your commitment to and support of the work that Africa Enterprise Trust is doing in Zambia. We wish you and your families a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Janet Bartrop David Brown Sonia Brown
Trustees

Lazarus, Steven, Yorum and some impala enjoying themselves at the summer camp



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